

Draft
Supplemental Environmental Impact Report
SCH No. 1993101036

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
LANCASTER LANDFILL
AND RECYCLING CENTER**

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 03-170

*County of Los Angeles
Department of Regional Planning
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012*

December 2006

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December 2006

CHAPTER 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Description of the Proposed Project

1.1.1 Project Location

Lancaster Landfill and Recycling Center (LLRC) encompasses 276-acres in unincorporated Los Angeles County. The LLRC property is located approximately two miles northeast of the City of Lancaster in unincorporated Los Angeles County in a larger area bounded by Division Street on the west, Avenue "F" on the north and Avenue "G" on the south; 10th Street East divides the Eastern Area from the remainder of the landfill property. The LLRC is composed of the current active area (82 acres), the Western Area (62 acres), the Eastern Area (112 acres), and the 20-acre portion of the property that accommodates the landfill operation facilities.

1.1.2 Existing Permit Conditions

Under the approved Solid Waste Facilities Permit (SWFP) and Conditional Use Permit (CUP 93-070-(5) issued May 13, 1998), the LLRC is currently permitted to accept 1,700 tons per day (tpd) of municipal solid waste (MSW) for disposal. An additional unspecified quantity of soil, green waste, and recyclable and beneficial use materials is also accepted at the LLRC. In addition, the LLRC may also accept up to 10 tpd of non-hazardous sludge and other non-hazardous materials, including non-friable asbestos-containing waste, non-hazardous contaminated soils, wood waste, agricultural waste, and other bulky items (i.e., "white goods"). Only non-hazardous waste is accepted at the LLRC because of the site's Class III MSW designation. A calibrated radiation detector is operated at the scales to detect radioactive materials. The permitted disposal area within the LLRC encompasses 209 acres. The maximum approved elevation of the LLRC is 2,400 feet above mean sea level (amsl). Operating hours of the LLRC extend from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The estimated closure date of the LLRC is 2031 based on the current rate of disposal.

1.1.3 Project Description

The project applicant, Waste Management of California, Inc. (WMI), requests amendment of the existing Conditional Use Permit approved on May 13, 1998 by the County of Los Angeles for the subject property that allows the current use of the site. The proposed amendment, if approved, will increase the allowable daily volume of municipal solid waste (MSW) for disposal from 1,700 tons per day (tpd) that is currently permitted to 3,000 tpd. In addition, an estimated 1,600 to 2,800 tpd of soil, green/wood waste, and recyclable and beneficial use materials would also be accepted at the LLRC. The LLRC would process up to 500 tpd of greenwood waste received at the landfill. The proposed project does not include a horizontal expansion of the permitted landfill footprint and would result in a reduction in the expected life of the facility. At the present time, closure of the LLRC is anticipated for 2031 (i.e., approximately 27 years); however, project implementation would result in a closure date of 2019 as the maximum permitted level (i.e., msl) would be reached sooner. In addition to new Conditional Use Permit, the Solid Waste Facilities Permit (SWFP) must also be revised to reflect the proposed increase in daily refuse intake at the LLRC. The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (Local Enforcement Agency) must approve the Revised SWFP. No other modifications are proposed to the LLRC, which will continue to be operated as a Class III facility. Finally, all of the mitigation measures prescribed in the 1997 EIR (SCH No. 1993101036) and related conditions remain applicable to the LLRC and will continue to be implemented in accordance with the approved permit(s).

1.1.4 Project Phasing

Implementation of the proposed project does not include any expansion of the existing facilities and, therefore, does not require development phasing. The applicant is proposing only to increase the daily refuse intake from 1,700 tpd to 3,000 tpd. No other changes to the existing permit are proposed. If approved by the County of Los Angeles, it is anticipated that the applicant would increase the daily operations to accept 3,000 tpd immediately, beginning in 2006, upon issuance of the SWFP.

Project implementation will not change the base excavation plan (i.e., phasing plan) prepared for the landfill. Based on that plan, the following completion of the existing landfill area, landfilling activities would occur in the Western Area (Fill Phases I and II), followed by Fill Phase III that would occur over the top of Fill Phases I and II and the existing landfill area in order to bring the area up to final grades. Fill Phases IV through VIII will occur in the Eastern Area, beginning in the western limits of that area and proceeding in an easterly direction to the eastern limits of the Eastern Area. The final phase will be Fill Phase IX, which will occur over the top of the Eastern Area prior to closure of the LLRC.

1.1.5 Project Objectives

EIR SCH No. 1993101036 listed several general objectives of the County of Los Angeles for solid waste management; however, those objectives were superseded by the June 1997 Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element (CSE), which are identified below.

- To protect the health, welfare, and safety of all citizens by addressing the disposal need of the 88 cities and County unincorporated communities in Los Angeles County during the 15-year planning period through development of environmentally safe and technically feasible disposal facilities for solid waste which cannot be reduced, recycled, or composted.

This goal incorporates policies to:

- Enhance in-County disposal capacity
- Facilitate utilization of out-of-County/remote disposal sites
- To foster the development of transformation and other innovative solid waste disposal technologies as alternatives to land disposal.
- to protect the economic well-being of Los Angeles County by ensuring that the cities and the County unincorporated communities are served by an efficient and economical public/private solid waste disposal system.
- To provide siting criteria that considers and provides for the environmentally safe and technically feasible development of solid waste disposal facilities.
- To reduce the volume (tonnage) of solid waste requiring land disposal or transformation by continuing to implement and expand source reduction, recycling, composting, and public education programs.
- To conserve Class III landfill capacity through diversion of inert waste, disposal of inert waste at unclassified landfills, increased waste disposal compaction rate, and the use of green waste and other appropriate materials for landfill daily cover.
- To promote and encourage waste diversion activities at disposal facilities.
- to promote adequate markets for recycled materials and compose products.

The objectives of the prior landfill expansion addressed the need to provide additional landfill capacity for the County with a minimal amount of environmental impact (e.g., increase landfill capacity in the County without producing groundwater quality impacts caused by landfill leachate, etc.). The objectives for the proposed project identified below are intended to supplement those objectives and include:

- Authorize daily refuse handling capacity at an existing in-county landfill to accommodate future projected population growth and waste load shifting within Los Angeles County.
- Provide a regional resource within the Antelope Valley area that is available for both local and County waste disposal for at least 15 years.
- Decrease the amount of dependence on out-of-county waste disposal and long-haul options of waste by increasing in-county disposal options, and thereby avoiding adverse regional air quality and traffic impacts.
- Minimize the impacts of solid waste disposal through a well-engineered and environmentally sound operation.
- Dispose of refuse in an existing landfill and relatively isolated area thus efficiently utilizing land space.

1.2 Alternatives

1.2.1 Summary of Alternatives

CEQA requires that an EIR describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project, which could feasibly attain the basic objectives of the project, and to evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives. Chapter 10 sets forth potential alternatives to the proposed project and evaluates them as required by CEQA. As described in Chapter 10 of EIR SCH No. 1993101036, which was prepared for the lateral expansion of the LLRC, several alternatives were evaluated, including: No Project (i.e., no lateral expansion) and several alternative project locations, including rail haul to remote locations both in and out of California. Several alternative development scenarios are also identified and evaluated in this supplemental EIR as a means of reducing potentially significant impacts associated with implementation of the proposed project (i.e., increasing the daily capacity of the LLRC). These alternatives include several other potentially feasible development alternatives, including:

- No Project/No Development (Existing Landfill Operations)
- Smaller Increase in Daily Permitted Capacity (2,350 tpd)
- Increase Daily Maximum Capacity at Antelope Valley Landfill

1.2.2 Environmentally Superior Alternative

Chapter 10 describes the criteria that were used to select those alternatives for detailed analysis and to screen others from further detailed consideration. CEQA also requires that the EIR identify the environmentally superior alternative among all of the alternatives considered, including the proposed project. It is important to note that although project implementation will result in potentially significant impacts (e.g., air quality), no significant unavoidable adverse impacts will occur. Although the alternative that would reduce the increase in daily volume to 2,350 tons per day would reduce the number of daily vehicular trips as well as the air pollutant discharges and increase in noise, similar mitigation would be required to ensure that the impacts were reduced to a less than significant level. Nonetheless, based on the comparative analysis of alternatives provided in Chapter 10, the Smaller Increase in Daily Volume is considered to be environmentally superior in that its implementation would result in the least adverse

environmental impacts compared to other alternatives as well as the proposed project. However, most or all of the mitigation measures prescribed in Chapter 4 of Draft EIR must still be implemented with this alternative.

1.3 Areas of Controversy

An Initial Study was prepared, which identified only four issues as the focus of the Draft Supplemental EIR. The analysis presented in the Draft Supplemental EIR evaluates potential project-related impacts to traffic, noise, air quality and hydrology and water quality as identified in the initial study conducted by the County of Los Angeles. No other areas of potential controversy were identified during the public comment period. A supplement to a previously prepared EIR need contain only the information necessary to make the previous EIR adequate for the project as revised. (CEQA Guidelines, § 15163, subd. (b).) The decision-making body must consider the previous EIR as revised by the supplemental EIR when deciding on permit approval. (CEQA Guidelines, § 15163, subd. (e).)

1.4 Issues to be Resolved

As indicated in Chapter 3.0 (Project Description) of the Draft Supplemental EIR, the applicant is requesting only to increase the volume of refuse that can be accepted at the Lancaster Landfill and Recycling Center on a daily basis. No new physical changes to the approved Landfill (Closure) Plan are proposed (e.g., change in horizontal footprint) that would necessitate the resolution of any issues related to the physical environment. The applicant must receive approval of the Conditional Use Permit (No. 03-170), replacing the existing CUP, from the County of Los Angeles, and approval of the Revised SWFP from the County of Los Angeles, Department of Health Services as the Local Enforcement Agency ("LEA") recognized by the CIWMB. After approval by the LEA and concurrence by the CIWMB, the revised SWFP may be issued.

1.5 Impact Summary Table

Table 1-1 summarizes the potential adverse effects of the proposed project and provides a summary of the potential impacts and mitigation measures, and summarizes the potential effects before and after mitigation. Each environmental resource area covered in the main text is summarized. Also, impacts found to be potentially significant are listed along with the proposed mitigation measures. Table 1-1 also includes the original mitigation measures prescribed in EIR SCH No. 1993101036 prepared for the lateral expansion of the LLRC that still apply to the proposed project. The residual impact after application of mitigation measures is also indicated for each significant impact.

Table 1-1

Summary of Impacts, Mitigation Measures and Level of Significance After Mitigation
Lancaster Landfill & Recycling Center

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
Transportation/Circulation		
Project implementation will not result in any significant traffic impacts at any of the key intersections. All of the intersections are forecast to operate at acceptable levels of service based on the County Plan.	No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are necessary.	Less than Significant Impact
Project-generated truck traffic impact the pavement integrity of Division Street between Avenue F and Avenue G (without the Avenue F extension).	<p>Prior to an increase in operation, the applicant shall fully improve the pavement and thickening of the base/sub base on the following streets: (1) 10th Street East between Avenue F and Avenue G; (2) Avenue F between Division Street and 10th Street West; (3) Division Street between Avenue F and Avenue G; (4) 10th Street West Between Avenue F and Avenue G; and (5) Avenue G between 100 feet west of the southbound SR-14 on/off ramps and 10th Street East. If Avenue F between Sierra Highway and Division Street is constructed, the project shall also be responsible to improve Avenue F between 100 feet west of the southbound SR-14 on/off ramps and Sierra Highway.</p> <p>As part of the proposed Project, the LLRC intends to implement the following program to help maintain a clean road surface on the County roadway supporting ingress and egress for landfill traffic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install "rumble grates" on the access road within the site property between the exit scale and driveway leading to East Avenue F (to remove loose material from vehicles prior to exiting the site). Wash down the pavement surface of the onsite exit road as well as East Avenue F, between Division St and Challenger Way, on a weekly basis. Conduct road sweeping twice per month on East Avenue F, between Division St and Challenger Way. <p>Mitigation Measure prescribed in EIR SCH No. 1993101036 is currently being implemented and will continue to apply to the LLRC if applicable as determined by DPW.</p> <p>Contribute on a fair share pro-rata basis to the cost to reconstruct the pavement of Avenue F between Division Street and 10th Street East and 10th Street East between Avenue F and Avenue G.</p>	Less than Significant Impact

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
<p>Project implementation will result in project specific pollutant emissions associated with truck traffic hauling refuse to the site as well as emissions from flares and on-site equipment used in the landfilling process. The increase in both operational and mobile-source emissions will exceed the thresholds established by the Antelope Valley AQMD for NOx and PM10.</p> <p>Increased MSW intake rates will increase the levels of daily LFG emissions; however, the resulting ROG emissions will be less than significant when based on future operations.</p>	<p>No feasible mitigation measures are available to reduce the potentially significant NOx and PM10 emissions resulting from project implementation. No additional mitigation measures beyond those prescribed in EIR SCH No. 1993101036 are necessary (see below).</p> <p>No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.</p>	<p>Significant Unavoidable Impact</p> <p>Less than Significant Impact</p>
<p>Tier 2 screening risk conducted for the landfill gas emissions concluded that there is no significant public health risk from TAC emissions. Similarly, the TAC analysis conducted for the grinder operations also concluded that both the acute and chronic hazard indices for the grinder are below the significance thresholds. Therefore, no significant health risk impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>The incremental addition of both mobile- and construction-related emissions associated with the increase in daily capacity will incrementally contribute to the cumulative adverse non-attainment conditions that currently exist in the air basin for ozone and particulates.</p>	<p>No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.</p> <p>Although the LLRC must comply with the rules and permit conditions imposed by the AVAQMD, including dust control, etc., no additional feasible measures are available to avoid or substantially reduce all of the air emissions resulting from the proposed increase.</p> <p>Mitigation Measures prescribed in EIR SCH No. 1993101036 are currently being implemented and will continue to apply to the LLRC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct engine feasibility study to determine whether equipment and vehicles can be powered with engines that meet on-highway standards. Evaluation to include utilization of turbocharged and intercooled diesel engines, and retardation of fuel injection. Tune-up and maintain landfill equipment in accordance with manufacturers schedules and specifications. Instruct operators and supervisors to report any symptoms of performance which require maintenance. Instruct equipment operators to shut down diesel equipment if it is expected to idle for more than 10 minutes. Evaluate feasibility of employee idesharing program. <p>Continue existing dust suppression measures on unpaved roads, in borrow areas, and at working face of landfill.</p>	<p>Significant Unavoidable Impact</p> <p>Less than Significant Impact</p>

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
<p>Continue to operate landfill gas collection and combustion system in accordance with governing APCD regulations.</p> <p>Continue to monitor surface emissions and gas migration as required by the APCD, the LA County Department of Public Works (LACDPW) in LA County Building Code, Section 110.3 and the LEA in CCR, Title 27, as applicable.</p> <p>Install landfill gas migration monitoring probes around the perimeter of the expansion areas.</p> <p>Conduct regular visual inspections of landfill cover and monitor gas emissions in accordance with governing APCD and CCR, Title 27 regulations.</p> <p>Apply daily cover at working face of the landfill.</p> <p>In the event that an odor complaint is verified by LEA to be related to the disposal of sludge, LEA may order movement or suspension of sludge disposal operations.</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact</p> <p>Mitigation Measures prescribed in EIR SCH No. 1993101036 are currently being implemented and will continue to apply to the LLRC:</p> <p>If residential development has occurred near landfill construction, limit construction hours to 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. No construction on weekends or Federal holidays.</p> <p>As development occurs in new cells, construct berms to limit off-site impacts.</p> <p>Tune equipment and maintain equipment noise mufflers.</p>	
<p>Although project-related activities would not exceed the Los Angeles County Noise Ordinance for anticipated site uses, single-event noise may be intrusive. Adopted noise standards would not be exceeded, however. Therefore, operational noise impacts associated with future traffic volumes and on-site activities will be less than significant.</p>	<p>No significant impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures beyond those prescribed in EIR SCH No. 1993101036 are required (see below).</p>	

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
<p>The proposed project will not result in any significant impacts from changes in the topographic conditions. Waste will be placed above lined areas and there will be no potential increase in erosion beyond that previously analyzed in the 1997 EIR. Therefore, no significant impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>Water Quality/Water Demand</p> <p>Although no significant impacts are anticipated, erosion control measures previously prescribed for the LLRC shall continue to be utilized at the site during landfill operations and closure to minimize the soil loss from the landfill. Excessive soil loss shall be mitigated by limiting the distance water must travel before reaching a channel or other drainage structures and by maintaining a 3:1 ratio. Existing mitigation measures for the LLRC, including, but not limited to, silt fences, bale dikes, wood chips, and sand bags remain adequate under the proposed project. Further, maintenance of the sedimentation basins will be conducted annually and will continue throughout the post-closure maintenance period. Further, current activities to establish interim vegetation on the deck and slope areas of the site will be continued. Subsequent to closure of the LLRC, vegetative materials will be established over the surface of the landfill to serve as the primary erosion control feature. No additional mitigation measures beyond those prescribed in EIR SCH No. 1993101036 are required (see below).</p> <p>Mitigation Measures prescribed in EIR SCH No. 1993101036 are currently being implemented and will continue to apply to the LLRC:</p> <p><i>Design and construct leachate control and removal system (LCRS) to consist of collection pipes, collection sumps and liner as described in Figures 5.5-2 and 5.5-3 in Draft EIR.</i></p> <p><i>Periodic monitoring of surface water quality in accordance with site's existing Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).</i></p> <p><i>Implement a proactive Water Quality Monitoring Program in compliance with State and Federal regulations.</i></p> <p><i>Decommission existing wells by pressure grouting or by another suitable method prior to landfill development, and strict adherence to the protocols for wells construction mandated by the California Department of Water Resources.</i></p>		

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
Geotechnical	<p>Mitigation Measures prescribed in EIR SCH No. 199310-1036 are currently being implemented and will continue to apply to the LLRC:</p> <p>Prepare Earthquake Preparedness Plan as part of Emergency Response Plan.</p> <p>Design interim slopes not to exceed a gradient of 1:5:1.</p> <p>Develop landfill in phases to limit acreage disturbed during each phase.</p> <p>Construct peripheral drainage channels around the refuse prism.</p> <p>Continue implementation of dust control program.</p>	
Flood	<p>Mitigation Measures prescribed in EIR SCH No. 199310-1036 are currently being implemented and will continue to apply to the LLRC:</p> <p>In phases, construct diversion ditch around expansion area. Construct temporary ditches around each phase. Collect runoff in sedimentation ponds.</p> <p>Periodic inspections of surface drainage facilities, vegetated soil cover areas, intermediate fill surfaces and on-site access roads. Daily inspections during periods of high-intensity rainfall.</p> <p>Seal cracks caused by settlement in intermediate and final cover resulting from heavy rainfall.</p> <p>Design and construct earth-banks and channels to direct runoff away from site.</p> <p>Implement phasing plan to promote sheet flow to sedimentation basin for percolation and dust control.</p> <p>Implement Phase II drainage plan to promote sheet flow to the northwesterly detention basin. Implement Phase III drainage plan to direct flow to outer perimeter channel.</p>	

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
	<p>In EEA, implement grading plan to direct flow to adjacent excavated cell and southerly channel. Pump water from excavated cells to designated sedimentation basins.</p> <p>Dedicate a 100-foot wide drainage easement along the east side of future 5th Street East for construction of a flood channel proposed in the Antelope Valley Flood Control and Water Conservation Plan.</p>	
Fire Hazard	<p>Mitigation Measures prescribed in EIR SCH No. 1993101036 are currently being implemented and will continue to apply to the LLRC:</p> <p>Implement measures described in Spill Countermeasure and Control Plan and Emergency Management Plan (required by State in CCR, Title 27) as listed on Pages 5.3-4 and 5.3-5 of Draft EIR.</p> <p>Maintain 100-foot wide buffer zone at the perimeter of the expansion areas.</p> <p>Implement procedures required by LA County Fire Department Prevention Regulation No. 10 to ensure adequate access and provision and maintenance of facilities.</p> <p>Train operations personnel annually in fire prevention, fire extinguisher use and emergency response.</p> <p>Remove debris and dust from undercarriages and engine compartments and check for oil and fuel leaks of landfill equipment and vehicles.</p> <p>Provide fire extinguishers on all landfill equipment and in the entrance and maintenance facilities.</p>	<p>Biota</p> <p>Mitigation Measures prescribed in EIR SCH No. 1993101036 are currently being implemented and will continue to apply to the LLRC:</p> <p>Revegetate completed landfill cells.</p> <p>Restrict size of working face of landfill to one acre or less to reduce attraction of unwanted species.</p>

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
	<p>Conduct pre-construction surveys to ensure that no sensitive plant species are found within project boundaries.</p> <p>Verify whether 0.4 acre desert meadow habitat in northern edge of EEA constitutes a jurisdictional wetland.</p> <p>Prior to construction activities in the EEA, perform a botanical survey to establish existing vegetation densities in order to develop revegetation seed mixes.</p> <p>Conduct timely surveys to determine the presence or absence of the desert tortoise. If found, coordinate with the CDFG and USFWS in implementing relocation program.</p>	
Cultural/Paleontological Resources	<p>Mitigation Measures prescribed in EIR SCH No. 1993101036 are currently being implemented and will continue to apply to the LLRC:</p> <p>Cease operations if cultural resources are encountered during any phase of construction. If Indian remains encountered, contact Native Indian Advisor of the local tribe as well as County Coroner.</p> <p>Retain qualified paleontologist to perform periodic inspections and, if necessary, salvage exposed fossils. The paleontologist shall be allowed to divert or direct grading in the area of an exposed fossil. As necessary, samples shall be collected with fine mesh screens.</p> <p>Implement other measures listed on Page 5-8-10 of Draft EIR.</p>	
Visual Qualities	<p>Mitigation Measures prescribed in EIR SCH No. 1993101036 are currently being implemented and will continue to apply to the LLRC:</p> <p>Utilize berms, where practical, to screen views of working face of the landfill from nearby residential areas.</p> <p>Vegetate berms with intermediate vegetative cover.</p> <p>Coordinate with County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation and Antelope Valley Trails, Recreation and Environmental Council (AVTREC) to relocate rural trail currently proposed through the EEA.</p>	

Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Level of Significance After Mitigation
Environmental Safety		
	<p>Mitigation Measures prescribed in EIR SCH No. 1993101036 are currently being implemented and will continue to apply to the LLRC:</p> <p>Continue to implement provisions of Special Waste Identification Plan (SWIP) to identify potential sources of hazardous wastes. Maintain signs that indicate that hazardous materials and liquid wastes are not accepted.</p> <p>Continue to implement Hazardous Waste Exclusion Program (HWEP) to randomly check loads of incoming waste for hazardous materials.</p> <p>Store materials in designated on-site storage area for less than 90 days. Materials to be removed by licensed transporter.</p> <p>Continue to utilize a radiation detector at the scale house to detect presence of radioactive materials and prevent their disposal at the site.</p>	